

US Department of Agriculture - Forest Service
US Department of Interior - Bureau of Land Management
Port-Orford-cedar Record of Decision
Briefing Paper

Status

- Rogue River-Siskiyou National Forest Supervisor Scott Conroy signed a Record of Decision on March 29, 2004 adopting new direction for the management of Port-Orford-cedar (POC) on the forest.
- A 45-day period for filing appeals to the Forest Service Record of Decision closes June 1, 2004.
- The BLM expects to issue a similar decision in May covering their portion of the range.
- The Forest Service and Bureau of Land Management released a joint Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on January 23, 2004. The January EIS marked the first formal range-wide effects examination of a unified disease control strategy shared between the two agencies.

Summary of Decision

- The decision will take a more aggressive approach regarding Port-Orford-cedar management and adds Port-Orford-cedar root disease considerations to agency transportation planning, special forest products programs, off-highway vehicle area planning, and other public uses. It will help the agency focus its control efforts on areas where it can be more effective in limiting the spread of the root disease.
- The new direction amends the 1989 Siskiyou National Forest Land and Resource Management Plan, improving the existing Port-Orford-cedar management direction by:
 - Better describing available treatments
 - Providing a risk key to help managers consistently determine which special protection measures need to be applied
 - Placing specific emphasis on protecting 144 two-thousand acre watersheds that do not currently have the disease.
- The decision will not change any NW Forest Plan land use allocations, and will not affect private land.

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- Port-Orford-cedar may be removed within 25 to 50 feet of some roads to reduce the potential for new infection of healthy Port-Orford-cedar populations or to remove diseased trees.
- Complex timber sales and fuels treatments may require specific equipment types, seasonal operations, and washing of equipment.
- Fire fighting activities will include treating potentially infested water with Clorox bleach, but only when the requirements do not delay protection of life and private property.

Background

- Port-Orford-cedar is a unique tree species that grows only in southwest Oregon and northwest California. It's a component of about 300,000 acres of forest stands on National Forest and BLM lands. Its ability to grow on a variety of sites (including ultramafic serpentine soils) and its unique characteristics and uses (ie: wooden arrow shafts) demonstrate its unique ecological function and economic value.
- For the past 50 years, an exotic root disease has been killing the cedar. The disease moves via spores which persist in streams and wet soil, and it is readily moved by mud on equipment and vehicles, hiker's boots, and wildlife. It now infests about 13% of all Port-Orford-cedar stands.
- Control techniques have included seasonal closing roads, power washing equipment and vehicles that have been in infested areas, treating infested water with Clorox before using it for firefighting or road watering, and seasonal restrictions on the gathering of certain special forest products in and around areas with Port-Orford-cedar.

For more information

- Appeals must be postmarked to the USFS Regional Forester, PO Box 3623, Portland, Oregon by June 1, 2004.
- For a copy of the Record of Decision, contact Rogue River-Siskiyou NF Public Affairs Officer Mary Marrs at (541) 858-2211 or Coos Bay BLM Public Affairs Officer Alan Hoffmeister at (541) 751-4249.
- For an electronic copy of the Record of Decision, browse "www.or.blm.gov/planning/Port-Orford-Cedar_SEIS".